

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 3, 6, 14, and 25 and amend claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-13, 15-17, 19-24, 26-28, 30-32, and 34 as follows:

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. (Amended) A haze-resistant temperable coating ~~carried by~~ on a substrate having a surface, comprising, from the substrate surface outwardly:

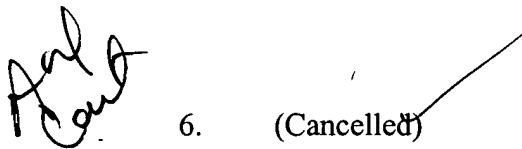
- a) an inner dielectric layer;
- b) a first infrared reflective layer;
- c) an intermediate dielectric stack comprising at least three intermediate dielectric layers, each of which ~~have~~ has a physical thickness of no more than about 250Å, each of said intermediate dielectric layers having a different microstructure from each dielectric layer contiguous thereto to limit crystal growth therebetween during tempering, wherein the intermediate dielectric stack comprises alternating layers of a first, polycrystalline dielectric and a second, substantially amorphous dielectric;
- d) a second infrared reflective layer; and
- e) an outer dielectric layer.

2. (Amended) The coating of claim 1 wherein each of the intermediate dielectric layers ~~have~~ has a physical thickness of no more than about 225Å.

3. (Cancelled) ✓

4. (Amended) The coating of claim 1 wherein ~~at least one of the intermediate dielectric layers is formed of a first dielectric comprising~~ the first, polycrystalline dielectric is an oxide or suboxide and ~~at least one of the intermediate dielectric layers contiguous thereto is formed of a second dielectric comprising~~ the second, substantially amorphous dielectric is a nitride.

5. (Amended) The coating of claim 4 wherein the ~~first dielectric comprises~~ first, polycrystalline dielectric is an oxide or suboxide of a metal comprising zinc, indium, tin, bismuth or an alloy of zinc, indium, tin or bismuth, and the ~~second dielectric comprises~~ the second, substantially amorphous dielectric is a nitride of a metal ~~which~~ that is different from the metal of the first, polycrystalline dielectric.

6. (Cancelled) 

7. (Amended) The coating of claim 1 wherein the intermediate dielectric stack comprises at least five intermediate dielectric layers.

8. (Amended) The coating of claim 1 wherein a first of the intermediate dielectric layers is formed of ~~a first dielectric~~ the first, polycrystalline dielectric, a second of the intermediate dielectric layers is formed of ~~a second dielectric~~ the second, substantially amorphous dielectric and is contiguous to the first intermediate dielectric layer, and a third of the intermediate dielectric layers is formed of the first, polycrystalline dielectric and is contiguous to the second intermediate layer.

9. (Amended) The coating of claim 8 wherein the intermediate dielectric stack further comprises a fourth intermediate dielectric layer of the second, substantially amorphous dielectric contiguous to the third intermediate dielectric layer, and a fifth intermediate dielectric layer of the first, polycrystalline dielectric contiguous to the fourth intermediate dielectric layer.

10. (Amended) The coating of claim 1 wherein ~~a first of the intermediate dielectric layers comprises the first, polycrystalline dielectric is an oxide or suboxide of zinc, a second of the intermediate dielectric layers is contiguous to the first intermediate dielectric layer and comprises and the second, substantially amorphous dielectric is silicon nitride, and a third of the intermediate dielectric layers is contiguous to the second intermediate dielectric layer and comprises an oxide or suboxide of zinc.~~

11. (Amended) The coating of claim 1 further comprising a sacrificial layer disposed between the first silver infrared reflective layer and the intermediate dielectric stack.

12. (Amended) A haze-resistant temperable coating ~~carried by~~ on a substrate having a surface, comprising, from the substrate surface outwardly:

- a) an inner dielectric layer;
- b) a first infrared reflective layer;
- c) an intermediate dielectric stack comprising alternating layers of a first, polycrystalline dielectric and a second, substantially amorphous dielectric, each of said alternating layers having an optical thickness of no more than about 450Å,

the first dielectric having an index of refraction between about 90% and ~~1100%~~  
110% of that of the second dielectric, and the first and second dielectrics having  
different microstructures to limit crystal growth therebetween during tempering;

- d) a second infrared reflective layer, wherein the intermediate dielectric stack  
comprises at least three intermediate dielectric layers; and
- e) an outer dielectric layer.

13. (Amended) The coating of claim 12 wherein ~~one of the first, polycrystalline dielectric  
and second dielectrics~~ is an oxide or suboxide and the ~~other of the first and second dielectrics~~  
second, substantially amorphous dielectric is a nitride.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Amended) The coating of claim 12 wherein the first, polycrystalline dielectric  
comprises an oxide or suboxide of a metal comprising zinc, indium, tin, bismuth or an alloy of  
zinc, indium, tin or bismuth, and the second, substantially amorphous dielectric comprises a  
nitride of a metal ~~which~~ that is different from the metal of the first, polycrystalline dielectric.

16. (Amended) The coating of claim 12 wherein each ~~of the layers~~ layer of the first,  
polycrystalline dielectric ~~have~~ has an optical thickness greater than the optical thickness of ~~any~~  
~~of the layers~~ each layer of the second, substantially amorphous dielectric.

17. (Amended) The coating of claim 16 wherein the physical thickness of each ~~of the layers~~ layer of the first, polycrystalline dielectric is between about 160Å and about 225Å and the physical thickness of each ~~of the layers~~ layer of the second, substantially amorphous dielectric is between about 100Å and about 150Å.

18 (Original) The coating of claim 12 wherein the intermediate dielectric stack comprises five of said alternating layers, with each of said alternating layers being contiguous to at least one other of said alternating layers.

Ad 19. (Amended) The coating of claim 12 wherein the intermediate dielectric stack comprises a first intermediate layer of the first, polycrystalline dielectric, a second intermediate layer of the second, substantially amorphous dielectric contiguous to the first intermediate layer, and a third intermediate layer of the first, polycrystalline dielectric contiguous to the second intermediate layer.


20. (Amended) The coating of claim 19 wherein the intermediate dielectric stack further comprises a fourth intermediate layer of the second, substantially amorphous dielectric contiguous to the third intermediate layer, and a fifth intermediate layer of the first, polycrystalline dielectric contiguous to the fourth intermediate layer.

21. (Amended) The coating of claim 12 wherein the first, polycrystalline dielectric comprises an oxide or suboxide of zinc and the second, substantially amorphous dielectric comprises silicon nitride, the intermediate dielectric stack comprising a first intermediate layer of

the zinc oxide or suboxide, a second intermediate layer of the silicon nitride contiguous to the first intermediate layer, and a third intermediate layer of the zinc oxide or suboxide contiguous to the second intermediate layer.

22. (Amended) The coating of claim 12 further comprising a sacrificial layer disposed between the first, ~~silver~~ infrared reflective layer and the intermediate dielectric stack.

23. (Amended) A haze-resistant temperable coating ~~carried by~~ on a substrate having a surface, comprising, from the substrate surface outwardly:

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- a) an inner dielectric layer;
  - b) a first infrared reflective layer;
  - c) an intermediate dielectric stack comprising alternating layers of a first, polycrystalline dielectric and a second, substantially amorphous dielectric, each of said alternating layers having a physical thickness of no more than about 225Å, the first dielectric having an index of refraction between about 90% and 110% of that of the second dielectric, and the first and second dielectric having different microstructures to limit crystal growth therebetween during tempering, wherein the intermediate dielectric stack comprises at least three intermediate dielectric layers;
  - d) a second infrared reflective layer; and
  - e) an outer dielectric layer.

24. (Amended) The coating of claim 23 wherein ~~one of the first, polycrystalline dielectric and second dielectrics~~ is a metal oxide or suboxide and the ~~other of the first and second dielectrics~~ second, substantially amorphous dielectric is a metal nitride.

25. (Cancelled) ✓

26. (Amended) The coating of claim 23 wherein the first, polycrystalline dielectric comprises an oxide or suboxide of a metal comprising zinc, indium, tin, bismuth or an alloy of zinc, indium, tin or bismuth, and the second, substantially amorphous dielectric comprises a nitride of a metal ~~which~~ that is different from the metal of the first, polycrystalline dielectric.

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27. (Amended) The coating of claim 23 wherein each ~~of the layers~~ layer of the first, polycrystalline dielectric ~~have~~ has an optical thickness greater than the optical thickness of ~~any of the layers~~ each layer of the second, substantially amorphous dielectric.

28. (Amended) The coating of claim 27 wherein the physical thickness of each ~~of the layers~~ layer of the first, polycrystalline dielectric is between about 160Å and about 225Å and the physical thickness of each ~~of the layers~~ layer of the second, substantially amorphous dielectric is between about 100Å and about 150Å.

29. (Original) The coating of claim 23 wherein the intermediate dielectric stack comprises five of said alternating layers, with each of said alternating layers being contiguous to at least one other of said alternating layers.

30. (Amended) The coating of claim 23 wherein the intermediate dielectric stack comprises a first intermediate layer of the first, polycrystalline dielectric, a second intermediate layer of the second, substantially amorphous dielectric contiguous to the first intermediate layer, and a third intermediate layer of the first, polycrystalline dielectric contiguous to the second intermediate layer.

31. (Amended) The coating of claim 30 wherein the intermediate dielectric stack further comprises a fourth intermediate layer of the second, substantially amorphous dielectric contiguous to the third intermediate layer, and a fifth intermediate layer of the first, polycrystalline dielectric contiguous to the fourth intermediate layer.

32. (Amended) The coating of claim 23 wherein the first, polycrystalline dielectric comprises an oxide or suboxide of zinc and the second, substantially amorphous dielectric comprises silicon nitride, the intermediate dielectric stack comprising a first intermediate layer of the zinc oxide or suboxide, a second intermediate layer of the silicon nitride contiguous to the first intermediate layer, and a third intermediate layer of the zinc oxide or suboxide contiguous to the second intermediate layer.

33. (Original) The coating of claim 23 further comprising a sacrificial layer disposed between the first infrared reflective layer and the intermediate dielectric stack.



34. (Amended) A haze-resistant temperable coating ~~carried by~~ on a substrate having a surface, comprising, from the substrate surface outwardly:

- a) an inner dielectric layer;
- b) a first infrared reflective layer;
- c) an intermediate dielectric stack comprising alternating layers of a dielectric oxide and a dielectric nitride, each of said alternating layers having an optical thickness of no more than about  $475\text{\AA}$ , the dielectric oxide having an index of refraction between about 90% and 110% of that of the dielectric nitride, the dielectric oxide and the dielectric nitride having different microstructures to limit crystal growth therebetween during tempering, wherein the dielectric oxide is polycrystalline and the dielectric nitride is substantially amorphous, and wherein the intermediate dielectric stack comprises at least three intermediate dielectric layers;
- d) a second infrared reflective layer; and
- e) an outer dielectric layer.

35. (Original) The coating of claim 34 wherein each of the dielectric oxide layers has a physical thickness of between about  $150\text{\AA}$  and about  $225\text{\AA}$  and each of the dielectric nitride layers has a physical thickness of between about  $100\text{\AA}$  and about  $150\text{\AA}$ .

36. (Original) The coating of claim 34 wherein each of the dielectric oxide layers comprises an oxide or suboxide of a metal comprising zinc, indium, tin, bismuth or an alloy of zinc, indium, tin or bismuth, and each of the dielectric nitride layers comprises a nitride of a metal which is different from the metal of an adjacent one of said dielectric oxide layers.

37. (Original) The coating of claim 34 wherein each of the dielectric oxide layers comprises an oxide or suboxide of the same metal.

38. (Original) The coating of claim 34 wherein each of the dielectric nitride layers comprises a nitride of the same metal.

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39. (Original) The coating of claim 34 wherein each of the dielectric oxide layers comprises an oxide or suboxide of the same first metal and each of the dielectric nitride layers comprises a nitride of the same second metal, the first metal being different from the second metal.

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